Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP)

U. S. Army's Pueblo Chemical Depot Personnel Support Building 45825 Highway 96 East Pueblo, Colorado 81006-9330

July 2013



Subject: Temporary Authorization Request, Hazardous Waste Research, Development, and Demonstration Permit Number CO-04-07-01-01

Dear Community Member,

The U.S. Department of the Army, the Department of Defense Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternative Program, and its contractor, Bechtel National, Inc., are systemizing and plan to operate a plant to destroy munitions and mustard agent stored at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot. PCAPP will be located in the northeast section of Pueblo Chemical Depot, which is east of the City of Pueblo and north of Highway 96.

PCAPP has submitted a Temporary Authorization (TA) request to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The following information provides a summary of this request.

What is a Temporary Authorization?

A Temporary Authorization (TA) is an approval from CDPHE that allows a facility like PCAPP to carry out certain activities that would normally require a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification approval. In this case, PCAPP is submitting a TA request to allow certain construction activities.

What construction activities does PCAPP propose under this TA?

PCAPP uses coated concrete secondary containment areas to contain leaks and spills from primary containment devices such as tanks. With this TA request, PCAPP is proposing changes to the permitted system (coated concrete) in specific areas. The following areas are affected: Agent Processing Building (APB) Cavity Access Machine mounting assemblies, Brine Reduction System (BRS) Crystallizer Recirculation Pump Base, APB Munition Treatment Unit (MTU) Water Seal Tanks, BRS Compressor Building supports and compressor pedestal, APB Agent Concentrate Pump Bases, and the APB Condensate Package Skid. The proposed changes include: modifying underlying skids, filling voids in gaps and under mounting assemblies and tanks with grout, and using stainless steel plates on concrete. The appropriate sealant and/or coating will then be applied to ensure containment integrity.

Why is this TA necessary?

This TA is necessary because it allows PCAPP to include the above approaches into ongoing installation activities (i.e., placement of concrete coating in secondary containment areas) before CDPHE review and disposition of the associated Class 2 permit modification and therefore prevents schedule delays. By facilitating construction activities, this approach expedites the treatment of the weapons in the stockpile and minimizes the amount of time the weapons remain in storage. Consequently, the changes proposed by this TA provide for improved management of the munitions and protects human health and environment.

Should you have comments or questions pertaining to this request, do not hesitate to contact:

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